

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A pipe joint, comprising:

a joint main body ~~wherein~~ having a joining hole ~~for joining a pipe is formed on the~~
with an inside surface configured to receive a pipe; and a threaded part is formed on the an
outer surface;

~~a sleeve; and~~

a nut ~~that is screwed~~ threaded onto said threaded part in a threaded state; and

a sleeve dimensioned to be partially received in said joining hole when said nut is in
said threaded state and in which said pipe is and said sleeve are inserted through into said
joining hole ~~;~~ and such that joins said nut retains said pipe to in said joining hole via said
sleeve; ~~wherein said sleeve is tightly engaging fitted on said pipe and said joint main body by~~
~~the screwing threading of said nut onto said threaded part to the threaded state, and at least~~
~~part thereof is of said sleeve being cut off during threading of said nut onto said threaded part~~
~~to the threaded state, and after said nut is removed from said threaded part and said pipe and~~
~~said sleeve are pulled out from said joining hole, to prevent subsequent insertion of said pipe~~
~~into said joining hole when said nut is in a subsequent unthreaded state in which said pipe~~
~~and said sleeve have been pulled out from said joining hole after said nut has been threaded~~
~~onto said threaded part to reach the threaded state becomes impossible.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein said sleeve ~~is provided with~~ has a sleeve main body, a separating part that is cut off and separated from said sleeve main body by the ~~screwing~~ threading of said nut onto said threaded part, and a linking part that links ~~for linking~~ said sleeve main body and said separating part together prior to said separating part being cut off.

3. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein said nut and said sleeve are configured and arranged so that ~~the structure is designed so that~~ a shearing force is applied to said linking part by the threading of said nut onto said threaded part in the threaded state.

4. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~Claim~~ claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein said separating part is a ring-shaped portion divided into at least three parts in ~~the~~ a circumferential direction.

5. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~any of Claims~~ claim 1 ~~through 4~~, wherein said joint main body includes an opposing surface that faces ~~the~~ a side surface of said nut when said nut is screwed onto said threaded part ~~is formed in said joint main body~~; and said side surface of said nut and said opposing surface of said joint main body are dimensioned to form a gap in the threaded state to obtain an appropriate tightening torque for screwing said nut onto said threaded part ~~is set according to the dimensions of the gap between the side surface of said nut and said opposing surface of said joint main body.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 1
~~through 5~~, wherein

said pipe is a copper pipe or a thin stainless steel pipe.

7. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 3, wherein
said separating part is a ring-shaped portion divided into at least three parts in a
circumferential direction.

8. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 2, wherein
an opposing surface that faces a side surface of said nut when said nut is screwed onto
said threaded part is formed in said joint main body; and
an appropriate tightening torque for screwing said nut onto said threaded part is set
according to the dimensions of a gap between the side surface of said nut and said opposing
surface of said joint main body.

9. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 2, wherein
said pipe is a copper pipe or a thin stainless steel pipe.

10. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 3, wherein
said joint main body includes an opposing surface that faces a side surface of said nut
when said nut is screwed onto said threaded part; and

said side surface of said nut and said opposing surface of said joint main body are dimensioned to form a gap in the threaded state to obtain an appropriate tightening torque for screwing said nut onto said threaded part.

11. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 3, wherein
said pipe is a copper pipe or a thin stainless steel pipe.

12. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 4, wherein
said joint main body includes an opposing surface that faces a side surface of said nut when said nut is screwed onto said threaded part; and
said side surface of said nut and said opposing surface of said joint main body are dimensioned to form a gap in the threaded state to obtain an appropriate tightening torque for screwing said nut onto said threaded part.

13. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 4, wherein
said pipe is a copper pipe or a thin stainless steel pipe.

14. (New) The pipe joint as recited in claim 5, wherein
said pipe is a copper pipe or a thin stainless steel pipe.